

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-58 (Cancelled)

59. (Currently Amended) A method for grading, encapsulating and commoditizing unique objects thereby providing trade ready graded encapsulated objects, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) preparing an object for grading and encapsulation by establishing close physical proximity to the object and enabling visual inspection of the object utilizing at least one of a jeweler's loupe and a magnifying glass;
- b) generating a grade indicator for the object by evaluating a physical condition of the object including characteristics upon which the object is to be graded and visually examining the characteristics of the object to determine a grade of the object based upon a predetermined grading scale;
- c) storing relevant data representing the object in a database, the stored relevant data including the grade indicator for the object;
- d) associating the grade indicator with the object in a substantially permanent manner by encapsulating the object and a visual representation of the grade indicator in a tamper-evident holder;
- e) assigning a unique identifying indicia to the object, which unique identifying indicia does not represent the characteristics of the object and associating the assigned unique identifying indicia with the object in a substantially permanent manner by encapsulating the object and a visual representation of the assigned unique identifying indicia in the tamper-evident holder;
- f) generating at least one image of the object, the image having details permitting the characteristics of the object upon which the object was graded to be viewed on a video display means, storing the image in the database and associating the unique identifying indicia assigned to the object with the stored image; and
- g) repeating steps a) through f) for a plurality of unique objects to generate a compilation of the stored images, whereby at least one image associated with one of the objects can be retrieved from the database by selecting the assigned

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associated unique identifying indicia and including retrieving from the database the stored relevant data representing the object associated with the selected assigned associated unique identifying indicia.

60. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 59 including the step of providing sellers of graded encapsulated objects with access to the stored relevant data to facilitate initiation of at least one trade listing for at least one of the objects.

61. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 60 wherein the initiation of the at least one trade listing is facilitated by using the assigned associated unique identifying indicia to access the stored relevant data.

62. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 61 including the step of providing relevant trade data to at least one online trade enabling facility wherein the trade enabling facility operates a network-based commerce system and the relevant trade data is used to facilitate the initiation of the trade listings for the objects being offered for sale by sellers having access to the network-based commerce system.

63. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 62 wherein the relevant trade data is provided to the trade enabling facility in a predetermined manner in advance of the initiation of the trade listing.

64. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 62 wherein the relevant trade data is provided to the trade enabling facility in a predetermined manner contemporaneous with the initiation of the trade listing.

65. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 62 wherein access to the relevant trade data is provided to the sellers in a predetermined manner contemporaneous with the initiation of the trade listing, thereby facilitating at least partially the initiation of the at least one trade listing in a streamlined manner.

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66. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 59 wherein the unique identifying indicia is an assigned unique certificate number, the unique certificate number having a predetermined format for retrieving at least one of the stored relevant data and the stored images.

67. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 59 wherein the unique identifying indicia is an assigned unique URL, the unique URL having a predetermined format for retrieving at least one of the stored relevant data and the stored images.

68. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 59 wherein the unique identifying indicia is an assigned unique machine readable barcode, the unique bar code having a predetermined format for retrieving at least one of the stored relevant data and the stored images.

69. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 59 wherein the object is at least one of a coin, a stamp, a trading card, currency, and a document.

70. (Currently Amended) A method for grading, encapsulating and commoditizing unique coins thereby making the coins trade ready, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) preparing a coin for grading and encapsulation by establishing close physical proximity to the coin and enabling visual inspection of the coin including utilizing at least one of a jeweler's loupe and a magnifying glass;
- b) generating a grade indicator for the coin by evaluating a physical condition of the coin including characteristics upon which the coin is to be graded and visually examining the characteristics of the coin to determine a grade of the coin based upon a predetermined grading scale;
- c) assigning a unique identifying indicia to the coin, which unique identifying indicia does not represent the characteristics of the coin and associating the assigned unique identifying indicia with the coin in a substantially permanent manner by encapsulating the coin and a visual representation of the assigned unique identifying indicia in a tamper-evident holder;
- d) commoditizing the coin by generating relevant trade data representing the coin and storing the relevant trade data in a database, the stored relevant trade data including at least a grade indicator for the coin;
- e) generating at least one image of the coin, the one image having details permitting the characteristics of the coin upon which the coin was graded to be viewed on a video display means, storing the one image in a database and associating the unique identifying indicia assigned to the coin with the stored one image; and
- f) repeating steps a) through e) for a plurality of unique coins and providing at least one of direct access and indirect access to the stored relevant trade data to sellers of trade ready coins thereby enabling sellers to initiate the generation of trade listings within an online peer to peer network-based trading environment in a streamlined manner.

71. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 70 including the step of providing the relevant trade data to at least one trade enabling facility, wherein the trade enabling facility operates an online network-based commerce system and the relevant trade data is used by the sellers to facilitate the initiation of trade listings representing graded encapsulated coins being offered for sale on the network-based commerce system.

72. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 70 wherein the stored relevant trade data is at least one of a plurality of item specific attributes associated with the coins, the item specific attributes including a grade indicator, a certificate number, a year of mintage indicator, a mint branch indicator, a denomination indicator, a coin type designation, and a coin grading firm identifier.

73. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 70 including the steps of connecting the database to a host computer, connecting a remote terminal to the host computer, sending a selected one of the unique identifying indicia from the remote terminal to the host computer and retrieving from the database for viewing at the remote terminal the relevant trade data representing the coin associated with the selected one unique identifying indicia.

74. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 70 including the steps of connecting the database to a host computer, connecting a remote terminal to the host computer, sending a selected one of the unique identifying indicia from the remote terminal to the host computer and retrieving from the database for viewing at the remote terminal the image representing the coin associated with the selected one unique identifying indicia.

75. (Currently Amended) A method for grading and encapsulating unique coins having retrievable stored data comprising the steps of:

- (a) preparing a coin for grading and encapsulation by establishing close physical proximity to the coin and enabling visual inspection of the coin including visual inspection utilizing at least one of a jeweler's loupe and a magnifying glass;
- (b) generating a grade indicator for the coin by evaluating a physical condition of the coin including characteristics upon which the coin is to be graded and visually examining the characteristics of the coin to determine a grade of the coin based upon a predetermined grading scale;
- (c) assigning a unique identifying indicia to the coin, which unique identifying indicia does not represent the characteristics of the coin;
- (d) generating relevant data representing the coin and storing the relevant data in a database, the stored relevant data including at least a grade indicator for the coin;
- (e) generating at least one image of the coin, the image having details permitting the characteristics of the coin upon which the coin was graded to be viewed on a video display means;
- (f) storing the image in a database and associating the unique identifying indicia assigned to the coin with the stored image;
- (g) providing a substantially planar upper enclosure element for receiving at least partially a coin retaining insert;
- (h) providing a substantially planar lower enclosure for receiving at least partially a coin retaining insert;
- (i) providing a coin retaining insert adapted for close fitting between the upper and the lower enclosure element, the coin retaining insert having an appropriately dimensioned aperture for confining the coin;
- (j) mounting the coin within the aperture of the coin retaining insert;
- (k) confining the insert including the coin between the upper and lower enclosure elements;
- (l) sealing the enclosure elements using sonic welding means, thereby providing a substantially permanent tamper-evident holder for the graded coin;

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- (m) associating the assigned unique identifying indicia with the coin in a substantially permanent manner by confining a visual representation of the assigned unique identifying indicia in the tamper-evident holder; and
- (n) repeating steps a) through m) for a plurality of unique coins to generate a plurality of images for the coins whereby at least one corresponding image associated with the selected one coin can be retrieved from a database by selecting the assigned associated unique identifying indicia, and including retrieving from the database stored relevant data for the coin associated with the selected unique identifying indicia.

76. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 75 wherein step m) is performed by printing the assigned associated unique identifying indicia onto a label and encapsulating the coin and the printed label within a tamper-evident holder, thereby providing a substantially permanent unique identifying indicia for the coin in the holder.

77. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 75 wherein the stored data associated with the coins is stored relevant textual trade data.

78. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 75 wherein the stored relevant data is at least one of a plurality of item specific attributes associated with the coins, the item specific attributes including a grade indicator, a certificate number, a year of mintage indicator, a mint branch indicator, a denomination indicator, a coin type designation, and a coin grading firm identifier.

Claims 79-80 (Cancelled)

81. (Currently Amended) A method for grading, encapsulating and commoditizing unique objects thereby making the objects trade ready, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) preparing an object for grading and encapsulation by establishing close physical proximity to the object and enabling visual inspection of the object including utilizing at least one of a jeweler's loupe and a magnifying glass;
- (b) generating a grade indicator for the object by evaluating a physical condition of the object including characteristics upon which the object is to be graded and visually examining the characteristics of the object to determine a grade of the object based upon a predetermined grading scale;
- (c) associating the grade indicator with the object in a substantially permanent manner by encapsulating the object and a visual representation of the grade indicator in a tamper-evident holder;
- (d) assigning a unique identifying indicia to the object, which unique identifying indicia does not represent the characteristics of the object and associating the unique identifying indicia with the object in a substantially permanent manner by encapsulating the object and a visual representation of the assigned unique identifying indicia in the tamper-evident holder
- (e) commoditizing the object making the object trade ready within an online trading environment by generating relevant textual trade data for the object and storing the relevant textual trade data in a database in a form for use in generating an online trade listing for the object; and
- (f) repeating steps (a) through (f) for a plurality of unique objects to provide sellers engaged in exchange of graded encapsulated objects with trade ready commoditized graded encapsulated objects capable of being listed for sale in a streamlined manner by the sellers operating within a network-based commerce system.



82. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 81 including the step of providing the relevant textual trade data to at least one trade enabling facility wherein the trade enabling facility operates an online network-based commerce system and the provided relevant textual trade data is made accessible to the sellers in a form used by the sellers to facilitate initiation of trade listings representing trade ready graded encapsulated objects being offered for sale on the network-based commerce system.

83. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 81 including the step of providing sellers of graded encapsulated objects with access to the stored relevant textual trade data to facilitate initiation of at least one trade listing for at least one of the objects.

84. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 83 wherein the initiation of the at least one trade listing is facilitated by using the assigned unique identifying indicia to access the stored relevant textual trade data.

85. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 81 including a step of printing the assigned unique identifying indicia onto a label and securing the printed label within the tamper-evident holder thereby providing a substantially permanent identifying indicia for the object.

86. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 81 including a step of connecting the database to a host computer, connecting a remote terminal to the host computer, sending a selected one of the assigned unique identifying indicia from the remote terminal to the host computer and retrieving from the database for viewing at the remote terminal the relevant textual trade data for the object associated with the selected assigned unique identifying indicia.

87. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 81 including a step of generating at least one image of the object, digitizing the image for viewing, storing the digitized image in the database and associating with the image stored in the database the assigned unique identifying indicia.

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88. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 87 including a step of connecting the database to a host computer, connecting a remote terminal to the host computer, sending the assigned unique identifying indicia from the remote terminal to the host computer and retrieving from the database for viewing at the remote terminal the stored image for the object associated with the assigned unique identifying indicia.

89. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 81 wherein the unique identifying indicia is an assigned unique certificate number, the assigned unique certificate number having a predetermined format for retrieving the stored relevant textual trade data associated with the object.

90. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 81 including a step of providing a marketing indicia for the object, the marketing indicia being physically associated with the tamper-evident holder encapsulating the object, the marketing indicia being visibly conspicuous thereby indicating that the object is trade ready within an online peer-to-peer trading environment.

91. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 81 wherein the object is at least one of a coin, a stamp, a trading card, currency, and a document.

92. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 91 wherein the objects are coins and the stored relevant textual trade data is at least one of a plurality of item specific attributes associated with the coins, the item specific attributes including a certificate number, a year of mintage indicator, a Mint branch indicator, a denomination indicator, a coin type designation, a coin grade indicator, and a coin grading firm identifier.

93. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 91 wherein the objects are coins and including retrieving the stored relevant textual trade data from the database utilizing the assigned unique identifying indicia associated with each of the coins.

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